

**MINTUES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF  
WANTAGE, HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP BUILDING, 888 STATE ROUTE 23, WANTAGE NJ, ON  
MARCH 24, 2016.**

Mayor Bassani called the meeting to order, and requested the Clerk call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Ronald Bassani, Committeeman Jon Morris, Committeeman William Gaechter. Also present were Township Attorney Glenn Kienz and Deputy Clerk Christine M. Von Oesen.

Mayor Bassani stated, "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Public Laws 1975, Chapter 231, it has been properly noticed and posted and certified by the Clerk."

Mayor Bassani led all present in the Salute to the Flag.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Bassani requested the governing body review the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Mr. Gaechter. Second by Mr. Morris.

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani                      Nays: None                      Absent: None                      Abstain: None

Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to Approve the payment of PO #13313 to Bassani Power and Equipment in the amount of \$326.00.

Motion by Mr. Gaechter, Second by Mr. Morris

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris                      Nays: None                      Absent: Bassani                      Abstain: None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - Ms. Von Oesen advises that the Township Newsletter is currently being printed and will be sent out soon. It will include information about the June Bulk Pickup, the upcoming Yankees vs. Rays bus trip, Dog Licensing, Recreation Events, Clean Communities, the Mayor's Message, and other items of interest.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – None

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT**

Mr. Morris, none

Mr. Gaechter, none

Mayor Bassani – Sussex County Day will be on May 1 at Sussex County Community College. This year, Wantage will take part in the event. There will also be fire fighter and EMT competitions. On April 25, 2016, local committee and council members from Sussex County will meet at the Hardyston Municipal Building for dialogue with legislators Senator Oroho, Assemblywoman Gail Phoebus, and Assemblyman Parker Space. On June 5, Mayor Bassani plans to attend an Eagle Scout event. On April 9, the Sussex Fire Department is holding a dinner. On May 26, the Sussex County Technical School will host a Charity Gala. Monies have been approved for road repair. Mayor Bassani inspected roads with Engineer Harold Pellow and DPW Supervisor Bob Wagner. The list of roads slated to be improved includes Lake Neepaulin Roads, Clydesdale Ridge Roads area, Havens Road and Lower Unionville Road. Oil and stone

is planned for other roads, and Bob Wagner will be trying a new method on a test road to determine if money and time can be saved on road repair. Rolling Hills activities have been investigated. A meeting may be held with Mr. Pellow and Attorney Kienz to determine if the Rolling Hills bond should be called. The First Reading of the budget will be heard tonight.

#### OLD BUSINESS

None

#### NEW BUSINESS

A Motion is in Order to Introduce Ordinance 2016-04: Amended Salaries, on First Reading. The Ordinance is entitled, "ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2016."

Motion by Mr. Morris, Second by Mr. Gaechter

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani                      Nays: None                      Absent: None                      Abstain: None

A Motion is in Order to approve the minutes of the Wantage Township Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, held of March 7, 2016. Present: Mayor Bassani, Deputy Mayor Morris and Committeeman Gaechter, Clerk Pro Tem Michelle LaStarza.

Motion by Mr. Morris, Second by Mr. Gaechter.

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani

A Motion is in Order to approve the minutes of the Wantage Township Mayor and Committee Executive Session held on March 7, 2016. Present: Mayor Bassani, Committee Members Gaechter and Morris, Clerk Pro Tem Michelle LaStarza.

Motion by Mr. Morris, Second by Mr. Gaechter.

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani                      Nays: None                      Abstain: None                      Absent: None

A Motion is in order to introduce the 2016 Municipal Budget, Public Hearing and Adoption Date set for April 28, 2016.

Motion by Mr. Gaechter, Second by Mr. Morris.

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani                      Nays: None                      Abstain: None                      Absent: None

A Motion is in order to approve a Resolution based on a New Jersey Department of Transportation investigation to create a No Passing Zone on Route 284 in the vicinity of M.P. 6.62.

No motion at this time, additional information is requested regarding the DOT study specific to this investigation.

#### OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Karen Merritt is concerned about the vast amount of land necessary for solar farms and advises that residential solar panels pose a fire hazard and an electrical hazard to neighbors, and that local fire departments have not been adequately trained in solar panel fire suppression. Ms. Merritt is also

concerned about drones and that owners are not following FAA regulations when they fly them within 5 miles of the airport, and also in the parks, and especially at sporting events.

Bill Gettler wants a copy of the budget. Mr. Gettler wants a response to his letters, and Mayor Bassani said the response was being prepared. Mr. Gettler does not like that an employee may be given an additional 45 days of sick leave at tax payer expense. Mr. Gettler talked about school budgets and offered his calculations. He feels the school tax levy can be reduced.

Melanie LiTrenta requests a Lake Windsor status report. Attorney Kienz responded that Pat Stefanelli and Harold Pellow will investigate over the next couple days and they will advise. Ms. LiTrenta asks if a cease and desist order had been issued to Mr. Maggio.

George Maragliano states that he is aware of a cease and desist order, but trucks continue to bring loads to the Maggio property despite same.

Joseph Retz spoke about the Wantage Fair Share and Housing Element. He feels that the Developer's Fee is unconstitutional.

Ann Smulewicz complained about Bicsak Brothers' business, and how their work activities produce air particulate detrimental to her health and property. She empathizes with the Lake Windsor group. Ms. Smulewicz appreciates that Mr. Gettler compiled school budget statistics, and she concurs with Mr. Gettler's views regarding an extra 45 days of sick leave.

Mayor Bassani closed Open Public Session.

Mr. Bassani requested a Motion to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion by Mr. Morris, second by Mr. Gaechter.

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Von Oesen  
Deputy Clerk